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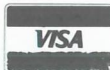
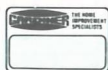
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TEAM TALK



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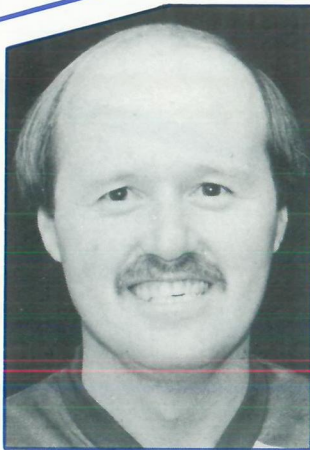
Once again, we find ourselves facing a club who have just parted company with their manager.

It is the fourth time it has happened to us this season. Swansea City came to Eastville last month for their first game after John Bond had taken over from Colin Appleton.

Bond had recently left Burnley when we went to Turf Moor, where John Benson was the new boss.

And our visit to Plymouth Argyle was when Martin Harvey was caretaker in between the departure of John Hore and the appointment of Dave Smith.

It is interesting that all three matches produced different results. We drew 0-0 at Burnley, lost 3-2 at Plymouth after leading 2-0 and beat Swansea 4-2.



A change of manager has unpredictable effects. Most often it happens to a club having a bad time and can help lift any tension built up under the old regime.

Inevitably, it leads to players working and trying that little bit harder – either to impress the new man in charge or to get a good result for the manager who has just left if he was popular with his playing staff.

Charlie Wright, an old playing rival from his goalkeeping days with Charlton Athletic, has taken over

the reins at Bolton now that John McGovern has gone.

I wish him luck in the job – but not until after tonight's match is over!

There was disappointment in our dressing room after the F.A. Cup defeat by Ipswich but it was not an occasion to feel disheartened.

No Fluke

For long spells we had outplayed First Division opposition. And we knew it was no fluke because we acquitted ourselves equally well when Aston Villa and Arsenal visited our ground earlier in the season.

It was good to hear Ipswich manager Bobby Ferguson being complimentary and saying he expects us to win promotion. Now we are out of the two major cups, we must make sure our League performances are good enough to see that we do book one of the top three places.

Wayne Jones

DAVID WILLIAMS DRIVES FORD SIERRA 2.3 GHIA FOR DOWNEND MOTORS

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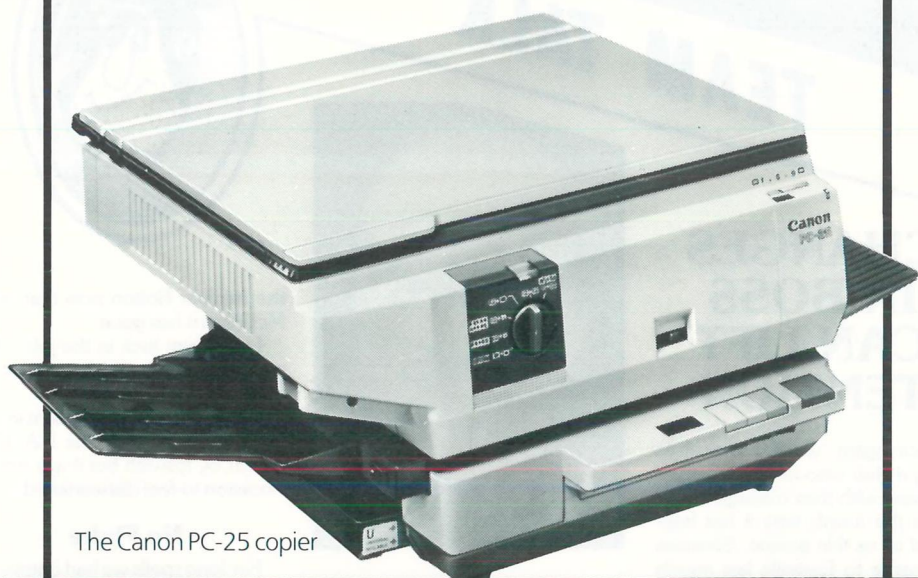
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OFFICIAL MATCH DAY MAGAZINE

Editor: Gordon Bennett. Contributors: Mike Allen (Western Daily Press), James Bond (Marcher Sound Radio), Ralph Ellis (Birmingham Sports Argus), Colin Howlett (BBC Radio Bristol), Mike Jay, Alan Lacock and Steve Meacham (Freelance), Jonathan Pearce (Radio West) and Robin Perry (Bristol Evening Post). Photographs: Alan Marshall (Club Photographer) and staff of Bristol United Press.

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HAMBROOK PITCH PROVES WORTH

We have really appreciated the value of our artificial grass pitch at Hambrook since the arrival of the bad weather.

Even with a covering of snow, it proved an ideal surface for training.

When it snows, normally the ground underneath is rock hard and can cause problems and sometimes injuries.

But we have no fears of falling on our

new area. Any other season, we would have been forced indoors and had to put up with the sore joints that inevitably result from hard training stints on wooden floors in gymnasiums.

Training during the height of the British winter has been one of the game's biggest headaches. Luckily for Rovers, that is now a thing of the past.

We still have to cope with unpleasant match conditions, however, as we experienced in the F.A. Cup-tie with Ipswich.

The trickiest thing that day was the fact that the Eastville pitch was different in some areas to others. So it was impossible to choose suitable footwear.

If it had been hard all over, we could have worn flats. But parts of the ground would take a short stud.

It made the tie a bit of a lottery – and then to lose it the way we did was a big blow.

Ipswich Panic

Once we equalised, I couldn't see anyone but us winning because panic set into the Ipswich play.

The crowd's reaction to the winner was disappointing. It was unnecessary to give Ray Cashley so much stick for a freak goal against him.

Our supporters were marvellous over Christmas. The way they got behind us when we were struggling a bit against Swansea was the best reaction by them I can recall and helped us win.

We all want success. We all make mistakes. We all suffer disappointments. So let's all pull together!

JON LIKE TIM

The arrival of Jon Hallworth has caused some confusion because he is so much like Timmy Parkin. Although only a lad, he has a tremendous physique and is enjoying being involved with the senior squad instead of being out in the cold a bit at Ipswich, where he is the No. 3 'keeper behind Paul Cooper and Mark Grew.



UNDER THUMB?

Newly-wed Mark O'Connor has been taking some stick in training. He does his best not to bite when it's suggested he might be under the thumb already because he gets away from the ground quicker than when he was single!



FAMILY AWARD

ROVERS FIRST



6



Rovers were the first winners of this season's Canon Family Awards – winning the £1,000 prize for November.

Clive Petry of Bifield Road, Whitchurch made the nomination which impressed the judges – and received a Canon camera as his prize.

He is pictured getting ready to use the camera after presenting Canon's £1,000 cheque to Rovers' manager David Williams and joint chairmen Martin Flook and Barry Bradshaw, watched by his mother.

CLIVE'S REASONS

This is the letter Clive Petry sent to the Canon Family Award judges:

"I wish to nominate my favourite club Bristol Rovers in your competition to find the club doing most to encourage the whole family to attend football matches for their 'anti-swearing' campaign in one of their enclosures. If a steward finds you swearing in this enclosure firstly he will ask you to refrain from using such language and if you are caught swearing again you are evicted from the ground and banned from it for the rest of the season. Rather than deterring people from using this enclosure it has created an atmosphere of friendliness rarely seen at football matches.

There are also a number of other reasons why I feel that Bristol Rovers should win this award:

1. They have applied to the local council to run the new community centre in the troubled area of St. Pauls in Bristol for use both to their supporters club and the local community.

2. They let outside local clubs use their artificial

turf all-weather pitch at their training ground on weekday evenings.

3. They offer generous savings on admission prices for accompanied children in the enclosure. Accompanied children who are regular supporters could have bought a season ticket for only £7.50.

4. They also produce family season tickets for any part of the ground which offer generous savings.

5. For selected games they give primary school groups specially reduced price tickets – last season they even let primary school groups in for free at two matches.

6. The players regularly visit hospitals and places of work to cheer people up.

7. The match day disc jockey, Keith Vallé, actually roams the pitch interviewing some of the fans over the air waves before the match.

8. Twice a year some of the players run a training session for any children under 16 in Eastville Park.

I find all these efforts very worthwhile, especially when you consider that they do not own the ground and only attend it on match days."

COMMERCIAL BREAK



INSTANT HOUSE

Last week we launched the new instant lottery ticket "Sporting Chance" including two games of bingo, Pot Black, Match of the Day and Daily Double. The top prize is £1,000 so pay 25p and have a scratch today.

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WELCOME

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Interviewer:
Ralph Ellis

TALKING FOOTBALL



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SPURS LOSE SOFT CENTRE IMAGE

Peter Shreeves believes his Tottenham team are ready to bury the club's image as a club with a soft centre.

Shreeves, in his first season in charge, has watched his talented side under experienced skipper Steve Perryman reach the top of the table at the half way stage – and he makes no bones about why he hopes they will stay there.

"People have always had the feeling that this was the club with a soft centre", he says.

"We could raise our game for any important cup tie, but when it came to the rigours of doing it week in and week out in the League that wasn't for us. I'm trying to get rid of that image.

"We've based our work on the theory that to win the League the goals against column must be less than the games played. So far we are on course for that."

The new Spurs has if anything given rise to the accusation that Shreeves has taken his team too far the other way. It's a charge that Shreeves won't accept.

"It isn't really fair. We had a hard game at Manchester which was written up as being a battle, even though the United lads didn't complain. Somehow the accusation stuck.

Image Was Complete

"We then had Clive Allen and Graham Roberts sent off at Sunderland and the image was complete . . . although if you had seen the incidents they were not as bad as it might have appeared.

"But we've got over that and I don't think anybody else has raised any complaints. The First Division is a tough place to play football in any case. You have to have certain physical capabilities.



STEVE PERRYMAN
– experienced
skipper.

"When we are doing our training it is all about entertainment. We try to get our first touch and passing right. It's all about playing good football.

"But on a Saturday there's another team who want to stop you doing that, and you can't expect not to have to battle with them."

Shreeves believes that Liverpool will still provide the most stern challenge to the clubs trying to lift the title – despite the problems which have beset Anfield's usually smooth running machine this season.

But he doesn't hide his own ambition for Tottenham to stay the course. "It would be very special to me if Spurs won it. First and foremost I am still a Tottenham supporter.

"I certainly don't consider that because it is my first season in charge we should not be qualified to win the championship.

"I inherited an excellent squad. I know I am a reasonable coach. But winning the title would mean that whatever happened in the future you could look back and say: 'That was something special'."

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AT HOME

Phil Bater, wife Helen, young sons Samuel and Geraint and the family pet mongrel Emma around the hearth at their Longwell Green cottage.



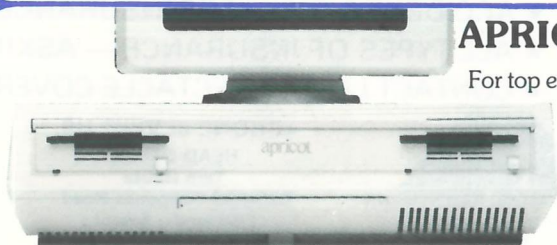
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PRICES SLASHED FOR SWANS' CUP VISIT

Stand ticket prices for the second leg of Rovers' first round Freight-Rover Cup-tie against Swansea City here at Eastville a fortnight tonight have been slashed.

They will now cost only £3 for adults and £1.50 for juveniles and O.A.P's.

"We recognise that our normal seat prices are rather high – but they have to be because there are not normally that many available. However on this occasion we don't expect there to be quite so much demand, so we think it sensible to cut the prices", comments managing director Gordon Bennett.

"We also hope that regular terrace spectators may be encouraged to try watching from the stands", he adds.

It is stressed that these reductions apply to both season ticket holders and the general public.

Although there is no price reduction for the public on the terraces, season ticket holders for these areas may purchase half-price tickets

THE

FREIGHT ROVER

TROPHY



before the game.

All advance tickets are on sale from the office at the rear of the North Stand on match days and from the office at Hambrook on weekdays (8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.). Postal applications should be addressed to: Box Office, Bristol Rovers F.C., Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol BS16 1JG.

CHANGES

There have been many changes at Rovers in the last three weeks.

Twenty-four-year-old Lloyd Bell, who spent the last six years working for the Football League, has been recruited as administrative assistant to replace Malcolm Norman, who resigned just before Christmas.

Manager David Williams has signed Jon Hallworth, a 19-year-old 6ft 2in tall former England Youth goalkeeper from Ipswich Town on a month's loan.

David has also extended defender Vaughan Jones' loan from Cardiff City for a second month.

But he has reluctantly had to release apprentices Craig Harding and Stuart Davies and make youth officer/trainer Roy Dolling redundant.

DEDICATED EMRYS EVANS



It is with extreme regret that we record the death last Thursday at the age of 75 of Emrys Evans, whose continuous service for the St. John Ambulance Brigade at Eastville dates back to 1946.

For the past decade Emrys had been in charge of the St. John operation at the ground – and as a gesture of appreciation for his dedicated work the Club gave him the chairman's ticket to watch last year's F.A. Cup Final at Wembley.

His cheerful helpfulness will be greatly missed by all his friends at Rovers, who extend their sincere condolences to his widow and family.

TONIGHT'S MASCOT



Tonight's mascot is 6-year-old Nicholas Reeson (above), who lives at Furzewood, St. George and is a pupil of Two Mile Hill Primary School.

Nicholas names Archie Stephens as his favourite Rovers player, and Liverpool's Scottish international Kenny Dalglish is his favourite national star.

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* Star Letter

WELL BEHAVED SUPPORTERS

I am writing to say how pleased I was at the recent game with Cambridge. Not for the football (we all have off-days!) but the excellent behaviour of the Rovers' supporters.

It was the second time I had taken my 10-year-old nephew Simon to a game and I am sure he is going to continue the Carvallo line of Rovers' supporters.

It was nice to be amongst friendly people, all there on a very cold night, with a common cause. Which is a lot more than I can say for that coin-throwing "rabble" down Ashton Gate way.

Here's hoping for a nice bank balance from promotion. All the best to the team for the rest of the season and next season in Division Two!

NICK CARVALLO,
24 Lockleaze Road, Horfield,
Bristol BS7 9RR.

PLEASE WRITE

We welcome readers letters – on these or other topics. There's a pair for free stand tickets as the prize for the star letter in each programme. Letters should not exceed 150 words in length and may have to be edited because of lack of space – and be sent to: "Fanmail", Bristol Rovers F.C., Hambrook Training Ground, Filton Road, Bristol BS16 1JG.

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SOCCER SCENE



I'M NOT A FULL BACK — GERAINT

Geraint Williams is playing some of the best football of his Rovers career at the moment. But ask him if he's happy and you'll get a blunt reply!

Geraint feels he is out of position at right back and he hates it. But his determined performances could keep Welsh international Neil Slatter out of the side when he recovers from injury.

Taking over from Neil early in the F.A. Cup triumph over Bristol City at Ashton Gate, he's stayed there ever since — much to his disgust.

His only other experience at the back came in his school days in the Rhondda Valley, covering at full back for three games at under-15 level. In those days Geraint had an image to keep up and he was even unhappier in defence!

His idol at the time was George Best and gifted Geraint's greatest love was trying to emulate his hero, keeping the ball away from his Treorchy Boys Club team mates as much as possible. So, he was dismayed to find himself at full back where he had little chance to prove himself a second Georgie Best!

The nickname "George" has stuck at Eastville, although the position had changed before Slatter's injury, as Williams chalked up 140 appearances for Rovers in midfield before his reluctant switch to the No. 2 shirt.

"I don't like playing right back at all", he says. "But as long as I'm picked there, I'll do my best. You can go fifteen minutes without touching the ball and I get bored doing nothing.

"It's also tempting to go too far forward and risk Timmy Parkin giving you a blast for getting out of position! I know the team has been winning with Brian Williams in midfield, but I can't wait to get back there."

George sees the move as only a temporary one, with Neil Slatter now challenging again for a spot in the senior side. But his tough tackling and energetic displays have impressed manager David



**GERAINT
WILLIAMS —
wants to play
for Wales.**

Williams during the club's resurgence. Now Rovers boss can't guarantee Neil his place back.

But Geraint's ambitions lie elsewhere: "Being a full back isn't helping me to get into the Welsh team. I was picked for the shadow squad a week before I was dropped from the Rovers side in November and I can't see myself getting back now after playing in the defence."

His international progression has been halted since the last of his two under-21 caps against Bulgaria in April 1983. Wales finished bottom of their European under-21 championship qualifying group and he hasn't appeared since.

He still has age on his side, he was only 23 on the day of the Ipswich match. But he needs to know where his future lies at Rovers.

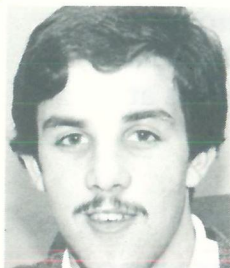
Geraint is getting married on July 6th to Lynne Thomas from a neighbouring South Wales village. He believes a secure future lies in midfield, not at full back.

"I'm happy playing for the first team, but not at full back. I want to play for Wales in the World Cup. That can't happen with me in the defence. There are plenty of good full backs around — **and I'm not one!**"

Interviewer:
Ralph Ellis

MY HERO

17



RAY GRAYDON EXCITED ME – GARY PENRICE

I started going to watch Rovers from about the age of eight, so I've always been an Eastville fan. I used to go with my grandparents and we stood in the North enclosure.

At that age my big heroes were players that I only saw on the telly – people like Pele and Jimmy Greaves. I didn't see Greaves play, but I've seen film clips of him and his acceleration and gift for scoring goals was obviously fantastic.

But if I had to name a hero from the Rovers players that we used to watch week in and week out it would be Ray Graydon.

I suppose all the crowd always like a winger, and he was a tremendously exciting player. He'd send an air of anticipation into the terraces whenever he got the ball. You knew something was going to happen.

And of course a winger is closer to the crowd, so they possibly tend to identify with him that much more. Ray was definitely my number one. When he was playing well, you never knew what to expect next.



RAY GRAYDON – playing in the First Division for Aston Villa after his £50,000 transfer from Rovers.

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 - 3 Tony DUNNE
 - 4 Peter NICHOLSON
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SECTION II

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Complete Club Statistics

It's interesting to note that Phil Bator is the only player from either side to survive today's game – and it's interesting to see on the Statistics page that he had earlier in the season made his debut in a home game against Aston Villa.

This programme is valued at about 40p.

[illegible]

BOLTON WANDERERS

TROTTERS DIGEST

* Bolton Wanderers visit Eastville tonight aiming for their first away win since last March.

* Their abysmal away record has been a significant factor in the club's slump to the lower reaches of the Third Division – and the 'amicable' departure last week of manager John McGovern.

* The significance of the present crisis at Burnden Park can be measured by reflecting on the glorious past of this famous side – and the fact that their final position of tenth in Division Three last season was their worst in 96 years of League football.

* Founder members in 1888, they enjoyed First Division status apart from seven seasons in the Second right up to 1964. During this period they also won the F.A. Cup four times.

* The past two decades have been less happy, but this is only their second spell in the Third, and even only as recently as season 1978–79 they were back in the top flight.

* Bolton's glory era was, however, marred by English soccer's worst tragedy – 33 people died and over 400 were injured in overcrowding when 85,000 unexpectedly turned up at Burnden Park for an F.A. Cup-tie against Stoke City in 1946.

* Improvements in subsequent years mean that their ground now possesses nearly 11,500 seats out of an overall capacity of nearly 42,000 – and a pitch with undersoil heating!

* Neither is Wanderers' slide an isolated story. Nearby clubs with proud traditions like Burnley and Preston North End have suffered similar lean spells. Blackburn Rovers are currently the only Lancashire cotton town club to be showing signs of buoyancy.



WHO'S WHO

Simon Farnworth – goalkeeper – established himself as first choice 'keeper last season, missing only ten games, having served a patient apprenticeship.

Brian Borrows – defender – former Everton left-back was named player of the year last season for his cultured displays. He can also play in midfield.

Jimmy Phillips – defender – made his debut against Rovers on the opening day of the season, after putting in a lot of hard work to gain first team recognition. Now a regular choice.

Mark Came – defender – a hard tackling central defender who only moved into full time football last season after signing from non-League Winsford United.

Peter Valentine – defender – the former Huddersfield Town player missed only four games last season, has been a regular this winter and is the steady influence at the back.

Warren Joyce – midfield – an all round sportsman, he appeared in all but one of Bolton's games last season, and has also played county cricket at colts level and is a rugby union tourist.

Steve Thompson – midfield – in his second season as an estab-

THE MAN IN CHARGE



Charlie Wright – caretaker manager – chief coach at Burnden Park and took temporary control of team affairs when John McGovern left last week with two years and three months of a three year contract still remaining.



Back row: Peter Valentine, Jimmy Phillips, Mark Came, Gerry McElhinney, Neil Berry, Paul Booth, George Oghani. **Centre:** Brian Borrows, Steve Thompson, Tony Caldwell, Simon Farnworth, John Platt, Ray Deakin, Paul Lodge, Warren Joyce. **Front:** Wayne Foster, Charlie Wright (caretaker-manager), Jeff Chandler, Simon Rudge, Steve Saunders, John McGovern (ex-manager), Graham Bell.



PAST TO PRESENT

Rovers and Bolton did not meet in League fixtures until 1971/72 – and Wanderers have managed only one victory in eight visits to Eastville. Full summary:

Season	Division	Home	Away
1971/72	3	2–0	0–0
1972/73	3	1–1	0–2
1974/75	2	1–0	1–5
1975/76	2	2–2	1–3
1976/77	2	2–2	0–1
1977/78	2	0–1	0–3
1980/81	2	2–1	0–2
1983/84	3	2–1	0–3
1984/85	3	?	1–0

The two clubs have been drawn against each other twice in the F.A. Cup. Bolton won 3–0 in 1904, after a 1–1 draw at Burnden Park, and Rovers won 2–1 at Burnden in 1968.

They have not met in any other competitions.

HOW THEY STAND

Up-to-date Division 3 table:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bradford City	25	16	5	4	40	20	53
Hull City	24	12	9	3	39	23	45
Gillingham	24	14	3	7	45	38	45
Rotherham United	25	13	5	7	36	24	44
BRISTOL ROVERS	24	12	6	6	40	29	42
Millwall	23	11	7	5	39	27	40
Bristol City	24	11	6	7	39	30	39
Bournemouth	26	11	6	9	27	20	39
Derby County	24	11	5	8	38	31	38
Reading	25	11	5	9	38	38	38
York City	24	11	4	9	43	34	37
Wigan Athletic	25	9	9	7	30	31	36
Doncaster Rovers	24	10	4	10	40	37	34
Walsall	23	8	9	6	28	26	33
Newport County	25	8	8	9	32	33	32
Brentford	25	8	7	10	30	37	31
Bolton Wanderers	25	9	3	13	40	35	30
Lincoln City	23	6	8	9	28	26	26
Plymouth Argyle	24	6	7	11	36	45	25
Burnley	23	5	7	11	30	40	22
Preston North End	24	6	4	14	30	57	22
Orient	24	6	3	15	26	44	21
Swansea City	25	5	4	16	27	50	19
Cambridge United	24	3	4	17	20	46	13

lished member of the first team, the youngest is the guiding light on the right side of the Wanderers' midfield.

Graham Bell – midfielder – signed by John McGovern on a free transfer from Carlisle last season when the former manager was looking for some experience to bolster his midfield. Formerly with Oldham and Preston.

Jeff Chandler – forward – only ever present last term he scored 17 times – his best ever season. A Republic of Ireland international the former Blackpool player cost £40,000 from Leeds in 1981.

George Oghani – striker – McGovern tried to sell him back into non-League football during the summer, but his switch from the wing to a central striking role has ensured him a place in the first team.

Tony Caldwell – striker – the main goalscoring partner of Oghani, he was still on a part-time contract and working as an electrician when he scored a club record five times in the 8–1 win over Walsall last season. Ended the season as top scorer and earned a full-time contract.

Simon Rudge – striker – this diminutive striker, he is 5' 5", has a great deal of skill and a real eye for goal that brought him nine goals last season.

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David Williams provides
a coaching viewpoint

TACTICAL TALK-IN



23

KEEPERS ATTACK

The goalkeeper may be the last line of defence – but he also has a valuable contribution to make as the first line of attack.

The 'keeper is valuable as the one person in the team who can slow the game down because he can hold the ball in his hands.

You'd want him to do that for two reasons.

Firstly because it would give the other players time to clear the penalty area and get towards the half-way line. The 'keeper can then kick the ball from his hands knowing that he will have enough of his own players forward to challenge for it.

That is a fairly defensive aspect to the 'keeper's distribution, however. It's used to take the pressure off when the opposition has been attacking. When you are under pressure the last thing you want is

to get the ball straight back into play. You need to stop the momentum of the other team's attacking.

The second aspect to the goalkeeper's distribution is more positive – when he spots that the other team have thrown too many people forward and there is the chance of a quick attack.

Then you look for him to kick as soon as possible so that you can exploit two attackers against two defenders, or even one against one. At our level you don't often see the goalkeeper throw the ball out – defenders are not allowed the time to settle on the ball and play it at the back. As you go up to the First Division, however, more and more teams will be allowed to begin attack by the goalkeeper rolling the ball to a defender.

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ROVERS ARE RAY'S BIG HAPPY FAMILY

After 34 years service to Bristol Rovers bachelor Ray Kendall is very much part of what he describes as "one big happy family".

In his time at Eastville Ray has served ten managers from Brough Fletcher to David Williams, and has progressed from crowd steward to kit manager.

In between time he has worked the public address system, acted as guide for the Eastville tours, was on the first True Blue Club committee and first Lotteries committee – and went on to become chairman. All of which has given Ray a fund of stories.

One of his most memorable jobs as a guide was to entertain a maharajah who arrived at the ground complete with gold umbrella and the rest of his finery.

As if that wasn't enough, he and his entourage watched the game from the Tote End terraces, much to the amusement of the regulars.

And as P.A. announcer he



RAY KENDALL – always enjoys a joke, as on this occasion recently after a match when he was surprised by a kissoqram girl on his birthday.

has named Rovers joint chairman Martin Flook in goal – instead of Martin Thomas, now at Newcastle.

But all his responsibilities at Rovers, which started when he gave up playing Downs football as a 21-year-old because he wasn't good enough, were carried out on a voluntary basis until four years ago.

But when he was made redundant by Wills, Ray was offered a part-time post and put in charge of kit. In addition he keeps the players, first and reserve teamers, in food on their away trips.

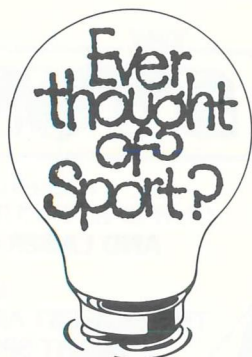
His meals on the return journey have become legendary, while for home games he turns his culinary attention to the board room.

Of his travels with the players Ray says: "I wait on them hand, foot and finger." But admits: "I love it."

He rates Harry Bamford and Jackie Pitt as the two best players he's seen in his time at Eastville, but all players and officials make up the enjoyment for Ray.

"I know so many people and had the pleasure of meeting so many during my time at Rovers", he says.

Free six-a-side offer by Rovers



YOUR CHANCE TO PLAY ON AN ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCH

Bristol Rovers are opening up the all-weather floodlit artificial turf pitch at their Hambrook Training Ground for a new six-a-side football competition open to anyone aged 13-24.

It's the club's contribution to the Sports Council's latest "Ever Thought Of Sport?" campaign, sponsored by Weetabix, aimed at young people who may have stopped taking an active part in sport for one reason or another.

The competition will take place on Friday evenings, commencing 1st March. It will be organised on a league basis, guaranteeing each team a match every week for six weeks.

The leading teams in each league will then proceed to the final stages, which will be held on a knock-out basis on 12th April.

Entry will be FREE – but all teams must be scratch sides. Entries from organised clubs will not be accepted.

There will be two separate competitions – one restricted to players under 16 on 1st March; the other for those under 24.

If it's a success, a league will be formed to run right through the summer, and another for next winter.

So, if this opportunity catches your eye – don't delay, send off your entry TODAY – or certainly to arrive by the closing date, 16th February.



A Sport for All campaign sponsored by Weetabix Ltd.

ENTRY FORM

Bristol Rovers "Ever Thought of Sport?" Six-a-Side Competition

Name of Team Age Group

Name and Address of Organiser

..... Tel:

Names of Players (maximum 8)

Dates of Birth

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.



Weetabix



IS THE FOUL THROW UNFAIR?

Most football fouls I can understand – though not condone.

The deliberate handball, the “professional” chop just outside the penalty area, the defensive wall which erects itself six, not ten, yards from the offence – all part of the modern game, illegal, immoral – but not incomprehensible.

One foul, however, always mystifies me, though it is often seen several times in a single match.

I’m referring, of course, to the foul throw.

Over the years I’ve played in hundreds of games at “park” level. I doubt if any of them ended without at least one example of the foul throw, though many lenient referees conveniently turn a blind eye to them.

But what still surprises me is the number of foul throws in the *professional* game.

F.A. Cup Victory

It’s a topical subject – certainly for anyone who saw Sheffield Wednesday’s F.A. Cup victory over Fulham on T.V. the other day.

The slow motion camera clearly showed that the crucial goal which put Wednesday into a 2–1 lead should have been disallowed.

Lee Chapman knocked in a simple rebound after Marwood had created a chance for Mick Lyons. But the whole move sprung from a quickly taken throw from Andy Blair which was blatantly incorrect. His arms barely reached his forehead let alone the back of his head.

The referee allowed the goal – one of several interesting decisions in a game packed with incident.



MICK LYONS –
his rebound led
to Sheffield
Wednesday’s goal.

But the point I’m making is that there really was no need for Andy Blair to foul at all.

That’s the curious thing about the foul throw – it doesn’t really produce an advantage. In fact a foul throw is usually a badly-taken throw because the thrower can’t get any power.

By Fair Play

In that respect it is different from every other form of foul. After all, players generally resort to fouling when they can’t produce the same result by fair play.

If it doesn’t really serve any purpose, is there any point in retaining the foul throw?

Personally, I doubt it. But while it does exist, is it too much to ask that professionals actually learn how to do it properly? Had that Wednesday goal been disallowed, Howard Wilkinson would have been fully justified in making Andy Blair do a spot of extra training!

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DETERMINED TO SUCCEED AT CHESTER



**PAUL BANNON –
would have joined
Chester if John
McGovern had not
left Bolton.**

If you're determined to be successful, then you're halfway to achieving your goal.

That's the philosophy of Micky Speight, a likeable, non-sonsense Yorkshireman, and his enthusiasm so rubs off on you that you feel he must be destined to do well.

Not that he's got the easiest of jobs. As player-coach of Fourth Division Chester City, he was given his first chance to prove himself as a manager when John McGrath was sacked last month – at a club that finished last season at the very bottom of the Football League and which this time round is struggling in the bottom four.

Speight's pedigree as a player might not have seen him hit the headlines too often – he was a dependable inside-forward with Sheffield United for many years, including when the Blades graced the First Division – but in that time he never tired of learning, or passing on what he had learned to others.

He's always harboured a desire to have a go as a manager, and the Chester board were confident enough to give him the opportunity.

"It won't be easy, I appreciate that", said Speight in his new office, "but I know the players at Chester inside-out, I know what makes them tick on and off the field, and I can spot a mile away those who aren't pulling their weight.

"I've always been a bit of a joker in the dressing room, and I must admit it was a bit of a wrench to have to distance myself somewhat from the players' company when I took over as boss – but you've got to be aloof to make decisions that might hurt but which need to be made."

Some of Chester's senior professionals were given a good geeing-up, and Speight made some shock changes in the team.

He also launched himself straight into the transfer market, trying to set about the £15,000 sale of defender Peter Zelem to tonight's visitors Bolton and scouring the country for the right players to sharpen City's goal-shy attack.

Almost immediately he came up with Paul O'Berg from Second Division Wimbledon, and while looking for a second striker came to Eastville to watch Paul Bannon, thence persuading the Rovers man to spend a trial period at Chester.

"Paul's a good strong player and I'd received encouraging reports on him, but I wanted to see him in action myself", said the keen Speight – and that's why he felt so frustrated when the proposed deal fell through.

"Reviving Chester isn't an overnight job", Speight added. "In fact to get everything going towards the sort of progress I want should take three years.

"But you've got to be forward-looking in football, and I'm willing to work 24 hours a day to make sure everything goes right to push Chester forward.

"I detest failure, and I want my players to follow the same guideline."

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SEEN & HEARD



Who's This At Eastville?



Some Bristol City fans may find this picture hard to believe – Brian Williams, chosen man-of-the-match by the sponsors' guests at the Ipswich Cup-tie, with commercial manager Mike Lewis and City's staunchest supporter, Tony Harling.

Tony lives at Hemel Hempstead and travels 240 miles to watch City home games – becoming a well known figure dressed in red and white hat, scarf and shirt, bellowing support for his favourites.

After Rovers' second round victory at Ashton Gate, joint chairman Barry Bradshaw invited him to Eastville to see the Ipswich game, a gesture readily accepted by City's No. 1 follower.

"I feel it is important to promote relations between the two clubs. Although I am City through and through, I care about Bristol football in general.

"I always enjoy chatting to rival fans and Rovers' supporters are no exception – I find them very friendly", says Tony.

These comments – following the recent announcement that Rovers had won the Canon League's first award for encouraging family support – suggests the Eastville hierarchy are on the right lines in their policy of promoting a friendly approach to the game.

Tony Harling was one of quite a sizeable Bristol City contingent at the Ipswich tie, giving Rovers a few extra cheers.

Directors Mike Fricker and Peter Manning, and the 51 Club chairman led the party. And 51 Club member Haydyn Jones, a florist, even provided Rovers' directors with blue and white button holes as a much-appreciated gesture of goodwill.

Even former City chairman Harry Dolman's widow, Marina and her sister, Patrina, looked quite upset when Mark Brennan's last-minute long shot denied Rovers the replay they so richly deserved.

Mirror image shattered

Joint chairman Martin Flook (right) received unexpected confirmation of his complaints when he attended the Daily Mirror's Meet the People get-together at the Council House last week. Replying to Mr. Flook's claim that Rovers were not receiving their fair share of coverage, the paper's chief soccer writer Harry Harris retorted: "Not at all. In fact I've arranged to meet your manager Terry Cooper . . ."



THE THINGS THEY SAY...

"Players were always greedy sods – and that includes me during my playing days."

– Ex-Rover LARRY LLOYD, who starred for Liverpool and Nottm. Forest before spells as manager of Wigan and Notts. County.

"This year's Rovers side are much better than the team we beat on the way to winning the F.A. Cup in 1978."

– Ipswich Town manager BOBBY FERGUSON after their recent Cup win.

"As manager and one of eight directors I have to abide by policies reached democratically by the board – even if I do not agree with them."

– Bristol City manager TERRY COOPER following his club's failure to sign goalkeeper Keith Waugh from Sheffield United.

At Cardiff

Ex-Rover Graham Withey has been transferred from Coventry City to Cardiff City for £15,000. After a month on loan with the Welsh club, striker Graham has signed an 18-month contract for Ninian Park boss Alan Durban.



WHY NOT TRY SUMMER SOCCER UNDER LIGHTS?

The "Torville & Dean" conditions upon which the recent Cup-tie against Ipswich Town was played, again raised the subject of Summer Soccer, or at least a major break from hostilities in the middle of winter.

The one item of outstanding spectacle and skill that afternoon was Ian Holloway's equalising goal, and I also think that it's fair to say the conditions were at least a minor factor contributing to the Ipswich winner.

Not everyone would be in favour of a total summer season, and there has to be a large degree of sympathy with that point of view.

What I would advocate is calling a halt to the League and multitude of cup programmes after New Years Day.

Obviously Boxing Day and January 1st are football "must" days, because of the huge crowds that are attracted, many watching their one and only professional game of the season.

And in any case, at this stage of the winter the weather's rarely set in too badly.

Preceding Christmas

Incidentally, while we're on the subject of festive football, surely it would be in the interests of clubs staging home League games on the two Saturdays preceding Christmas, to bring those matches forward to the previous Tuesday or Wednesday evening, depending on which night of the week the home club plays its floodlit games.



IAN HOLLOWAY
— his equalising
goal was only
item of skill.

And as Boxing Day is generally acknowledged as the best in the calendar for soccer crowds, can someone explain to me why some disabled computer has not given Bristol Rovers that plum date at home since 1979?

I stray from the subject.

So if we wipe out January and February from the soccer calendar, then the answer has to be almost unreasonably simple.

The season starts at the beginning of August, and finishes at the end of May.

Opponents would complain of unfair competition to cricket, and the players might possibly complain, particularly in August, of the chance of matches having to be played in excessive heat.

Well, as my second love, I also would not like to see cricket played under too much competition, and the soccer players would be justified if they felt that playing on an early August afternoon would be the wrong way to lose two stone in weight.

The answer's simple.

Play at night, with floodlighting probably not being really necessary until late in the game.

Worth a try don't you think?

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SUPPORTERS CLUB

As we return to League action at Eastville after the excitement of the Ipswich Cup match, I should like to reflect on a couple of points arising from that game.

Firstly, thank you for the excellent support that you gave the team. The old Eastville atmosphere has certainly been in evidence in recent weeks and I hope that it will continue tonight and for the rest of this extremely important season.

Secondly, if you know someone who came to the Cup match who does not usually attend League games, please try and persuade them to come again. They are now aware of the high-quality football Rovers can produce – let's all try to convert these people into regular supporters starting with Saturday's match with Burnley.

A special word of thanks is also due to our voluntary team of programme sellers who worked extremely hard at the Ipswich match in freezing conditions.

I was very interested to read Mike Lewis's comments on support for social events on the Commercial Break page in the Ipswich programme. Various functions that the Supporters Club have organised have received disappointing support over the last couple of years. While it is a

great disadvantage to have no social facilities of our own, it is a pity that the considerable efforts made do not always gain the response that they deserve.

During the remainder of the season, we shall be organising our annual quiz and a special Player of the Year function. Full details will appear in these notes in due course but in the meantime I join with Mike Lewis in urging you to support all events held to benefit Bristol Rovers.

I am pleased to report that sales in the Club Shop over the Christmas period were excellent. Unfortunately as a result, we are temporarily short of a few of our most popular lines but we hope to remedy this situation during the next couple of weeks. In the meantime I apologise for any inconvenience caused by any short-term stock shortages.

In the near future we shall be receiving a number of new items including new design printed scarves, printed gloves, knitted flat hats and official club badges. How about beating the winter cold with a Rovers bodywarmer – on sale now at only £8.99. Our sales team tell me that the popular Rovers knickers are selling like hot cakes – whatever that means!

Nigel Andrews

PRESIDENTS CLUB

The New Year has started with two exciting games at Eastville – but how disappointing the end of the Cup-tie turned out to be with Ipswich scoring in the dying seconds of the game!

Congratulations to the whole team on a really great performance against a First Division team. Promotion is now our main aim, and after the performance against Ipswich, teams in Division Two will already be fearing us next season.

May I, on behalf of all the Presidents Club members, also extend congratulations to Mark O'Connor and his wife Clare upon their recent

marriage. We wish them both every happiness together here in Bristol.

There are two important dates to remember:

* Saturday 9th February – Our first 200 Club draw will take place after the home game against Lincoln City, so make sure your name is in the drum handing in your completed mandate to any Committee member.

* Saturday 27th April – Our annual Dinner-Dance will take place after the Orient match. Please make a note in your diary.

Finally, we extend a warm welcome to our friends from Bolton and hope they enjoy their visit to Eastville.

John Goodchild

FACTS & FIGURES



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† Includes own goals

APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS

1984-85

Career-to-date

	A	G	A	G
Holloway	32	5	111 + 7s	17
Parkin	32	—	167 + 1s	7
Williams (B)	32	1	178 + 2s	17
O'Connor	31 + 1s	6	31 + 1s	6
Randall	31	16	224 + 19s	99
Cashley	30	—	67	—
McCaftery	30	—	207 + 4s	9
Williams (D)	29 + 1s	8	382 + 19s	78
Williams (G)	28 + 3s	—	150 + 6s	10
Stephens	23 + 1s	10	114 + 31s	45
Slatter	23	1	152 + 1s	4
Bater	18 + 6s	—	289 + 10s	3
White	10 + 3s	3	107 + 14s	38
Hallworth	2	—	2	—
Taylor	1	—	1	—
Brain	— + 1s	—	— + 1s	—
Jones	— + 1s	—	100 + 10s	3
Noble	— + 1s	—	— + 2s	—
Penrice	— + 1s	—	— + 1s	—
Bannon	—	—	12	4

DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	Res	Art	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sat. Aug. 25	Bolton Wanderers	A	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens 1	Randall	O'Connor	Bater*
Mon. Aug. 27	Swindon Town (Milk Cup)	A	3-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens 2	Randall	O'Connor	Bater*
Tues. Sept. 4	Swindon Town (Milk Cup)	H	2-1	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Williams (G)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Bater*
Sat. Sept. 8	Burnley	H	0-0	3-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Bater*
Sat. Sept. 15	Reading	H	1-0	5-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White
Tues. Sept. 18	Bradford City	H	2-0	5-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Williams (D)*
Sat. Sept. 22	Lincoln City	A	0-1	2-1	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Williams (D)
Sat. Sept. 25	A.F.C. Bourne	A	0-1	2-1	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Bater
Sat. Sept. 29	A.F.C. Bourne	H	0-1	2-1	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Bater
Sat. Oct. 6	Derby County	H	1-1	7-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Bater
Sat. Oct. 13	Arsenal (Milk Cup)	H	1-1	10-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Bater
Sat. Oct. 20	Rotherham United	H	1-1	5-1	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Noble*
Sat. Oct. 27	Doncaster Rovers	H	1-1	5-1	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Bater*
Sat. Oct. 27	Wigan Athletic	H	0-1	3-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Bater*
Sat. Oct. 27	Hull City	H	0-1	5-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Bater*
Sat. Nov. 3	Plymouth Argyle	A	2-3	5-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Bater
Sat. Nov. 10	Bristol City	A	0-3	18-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Bater
Sat. Nov. 17	Kings Lynn (F.A.C.)	H	2-1	3-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Bater
Sat. Nov. 24	Millwall	H	1-1	5-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Bater
Fri. Nov. 30	Orient	A	4-1	2-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Bater
Sat. Dec. 8	Bristol City (F.A.C.)	A	3-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Williams (G)*
Sat. Dec. 15	Newport County	H	2-0	5-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Williams (G)*
Sat. Dec. 22	Swansea City	A	4-2	5-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	Williams (G)*
Sat. Dec. 29	Brentford	A	3-0	5-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. Dec. 29	Gillingham	A	1-4	6-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Tues. Jan. 1	Cambridge United	H	1-1	6-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. Jan. 5	Swansea City (F.A.C.)	H	1-2	12-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. Jan. 12	Swansea City (F.A.C.)	A	2-2	12-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. Jan. 19	Swansea City (F.R.C.)	A	0-2	2-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. Jan. 26	Swansea City (F.R.C.)	A	0-2	2-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Tues. Jan. 29	Bolton Wanderers	H	4-0	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. Feb. 2	A.F.C. Bourne	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. Feb. 9	Lincoln City	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Wed. Feb. 13	Bradford City	A	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Tues. Feb. 19	Swansea City (F.R.C.)	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. Feb. 23	Plymouth Argyle	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. March 2	Hull City	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Tues. March 5	Wigan Athletic	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Fri. March 8	Doncaster Rovers (F.A.C.)	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. March 16	Rotherham United	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Tues. March 19	Bristol City (F.A.C.)	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. March 23	Derby County	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sun. March 24	Milk Cup Final	A	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. March 30	Walsall	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. April 6	Brentford	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Mon. April 8	Cambridge United	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. April 13	Bristol City (F.A.SF)	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. April 16	Burnley	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. April 20	Millwall	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Tues. April 23	Walsall	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. April 27	Orient	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. May 4	Newport County	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Tues. May 7	Gillingham	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. May 11	Swansea City	H	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*
Sat. May 18	FA Cup Final	A	1-1	4-0	Cashley	Slatter	Williams (B)	Parkin	McCaftery	Holloway	Williams (D)	Williams (D)	Stephens	Randall	O'Connor	White*

ACTION REPLAY



**Rubbing
Shoulders
With The
Big Stars**

ABOVE – IAN HOLLOWAY (No. 7) turns to celebrate his equalising goal with Archie Stephens, Paul Randall and Mark O'Connor – with Mark Brennan looking on despondently, little expecting to himself score the dramatic late winner.

Memorable Moments From Ipswich Cup-tie

BELOW LEFT – PAUL RANDALL outjumps Ian Cranson to head the ball goalwards.

BELOW RIGHT – BRIAN WILLIAMS being thwarted by a prompt Paul Cooper interception.



Previewing some of our
forthcoming fixtures

LOOKING AHEAD

TRIP TO THE SEASIDE

A large contingent of supporters is expected to follow the team to **Bournemouth next Saturday** (kick-off 3.00 p.m.) – the short trip to the South Coast resort is always one of the most popular each season.

With a 1–0 home win already under their belts, Rovers will be aiming for a “double” over **Harry Redknapp’s** men – and it is perhaps significant to recall that Rovers have only twice completed the “double” over the Cherries since World War Two – in seasons 1952/53 and 1973/74, the two successful promotion campaigns.

But Bournemouth usually give Rovers a tough battle. Last season, for instance, their 3–1 victory at Eastville in April was probably Rovers’ most critical set-back in their bid to return to Division Two, and a month later they knocked Rovers out of the Associate Members Cup with a 1–0 home semi-final win.

For the benefit of supporters intending to travel to Bournemouth, we are pleased to provide the following information:

Ground: Dean Court, Bournemouth (tel: 0202 35381).

Supporters Club Coaches: Depart Eastville Stadium 12 noon. Fare £3.50. Bookings at 468 Stapleton Road (tel: 510363).

A.A. Recommended Route: Leave Bristol via the A4 to Bath and then take the A36 to Warminster. Then follow signs Salisbury A36 for a further 18 miles and at roundabout take 2nd exit A30. At Salisbury, follow signs Ringwood A338 for 16½ miles and at roundabout take 3rd exit A31. After 1½ miles take 1st exit A338 and after 6¾ miles take 2nd exit and 1¼ miles farther turn left into Thistlebarrow Road (unclassified). A.F.C. Bournemouth’s ground is on the right hand side (79 miles).

KEEP YOUR VOUCHERS!

The home **Rovers-City** League clash at Eastville on **Saturday 13th April** is certain to be an **all-ticket** match. Supporters who attended the recent home games against Millwall and Swansea City and were handed Vouchers at the turnstiles are advised to keep them in a safe place – for they will guarantee priority when the tickets go on sale. Full details of arrangements will be announced at the end of February, after discussions with the Police and Avon County Council. Only one thing is certain, after the attendances of 18,672 for the League game at Ashton Gate and 19,367 for the more recent F.A. Cup-tie there, the demand for tickets for the April meeting will be quite astronomical.



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MURPHY’S IMPS NEXT

Rovers are also chasing a “double” at Eastville on **Saturday week**, when **Lincoln City** are the visitors (kick-off 3.00 p.m.).

Two Paul Randall goals sunk **Colin Murphy’s** men when Rovers travelled to Sincil Bank in September but the Imps have an impressive record at Eastville.

Until Rovers won 3–1 at the tail end of last season, Lincoln had become something of a “bogey” team, having won on both their previous visits.

So, although the Imps are currently lingering too close to the wrong end of the table for comfort, it would be wrong to underestimate them.

SPURS KIDS

Rovers’ third round Southern Junior Floodlit Cup-tie against **Spurs Youth**, twice postponed because of the Freeze, will at last be played here at **Eastville next Tuesday**, kick-off 7.30 p.m.

Attractions at
Eastville

NEXT MATCHES

Saturday
(kick-off 2.00 p.m.)

ARSENAL RESERVES

Next Tuesday (kick-off 7.30 p.m.)

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR YOUTH

(Southern Junior Floodlit Cup, Round 3)

Saturday 9th February (kick-off 3.00 p.m.)

LINCOLN CITY (Canon League Division Three)



BURNLEY SUNK IN WATNEY CUP SUCCESS

Burnley, whose visit to Eastville ten days ago was a victim of the Freeze, were one of the giants Rovers toppled on their way to winning the Watney Cup in 1972.

over Wolves and set up a final with Sheffield United was achieved at Turf Moor.

In that sense, it was probably the most impressive of the results which led to Rovers becoming the first Third Division club to carry off the trophy.

The competition for the previous season's highest scorers – other than those who had won championships or earned promotion – was run as a curtain-raiser to the new League programme.

Don Megson had succeeded Bill Dodgin as Rovers' manager that summer and to lead the club so soon to their first national cup success in 90 years was a dream start to his new career.

Rovers Thriving

While other clubs prepared for the coming League programme with friendly practice matches, Rovers were experiencing, and thriving on, competitive play.

The win at Burnley, coming four days after Wolves had been impressively despatched by the same score at Eastville, gave Megson tremendous encouragement for his major task of leading Rovers into the Second Division.

"What more could I ask of the lads than that?" he asked after the final whistle at Turf Moor. "It was a harder tie than last Saturday because Burnley put more into their game than Wolves did.

"But we proved ourselves the better side. With this kind of performance, we can cause problems for any team in the League."



FRANKIE PRINCE
– scored first goal
at Turf Moor.

The victory, which added a further £500 to the £4,500 winnings already netted by Rovers, was so emphatic that the Turf Moor crowd's reaction fluctuated between appreciative applause for the quality of Rovers' football and slow-handclapping of their own team's efforts.

There was a spell leading up to half-time when Burnley took the initiative and threatened to wipe out the lead Rovers gained through Frankie Prince's 15th minute goal.

But the Eastville defence, particularly at its heart where the twin towers of Stuart Taylor and Mike Green were so commanding, refused to crack.

A second goal scored by Bruce Bannister four minutes into the second half demoralised Burnley and from then on, Rovers swung the ball about, stringing together passes with impudent ease.

It set the stage for the final against Sheffield United – and an historic Eastville triumph.

IN RESERVE

POMPEY BEATEN



Goals by Archie Stephens (left) and Paul Bannon brought a deserved 2-1 win over Portsmouth when our Reserves got back into action after the Freeze had disrupted fixtures at Hambrook last Thursday.

It was the tenth point picked up by the Reserves in their last eleven games, contrasting to the zero points haul from their opening eleven fixtures.

They face a couple of tough games coming up – against Arsenal at Eastville on Saturday (kick-off 2.00 p.m.) and at Millwall on Wednesday week.



JUNIORS

Recent results and fixtures in the South East Counties (Under 17) League:

December

Sat. 8	West Ham (Cup)	H	0-4
Sat. 15	Brentford	H	3-1
Sat. 29	Wimbledon	H	1-1

January

Sat. 12	Luton Town	A	1-7
Sat. 26	Reading	H	

February

Sat. 2	Southend Utd	H	
Sat. 9	Brighton	H	
Sat. 16	Swindon Town	A	
Sat. 23	Crystal Palace	A	

HALF TIMES

FREIGHT ROVER TROPHY (First Round – First Leg)

Wrexham v Wigan Athletic

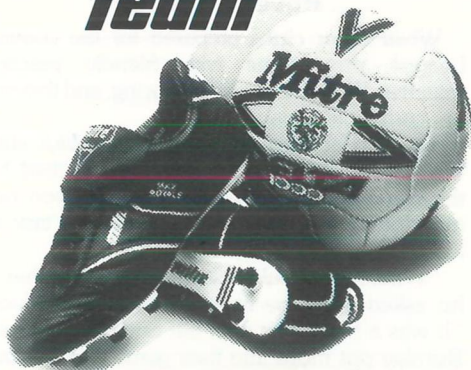
DIVISION THREE

Doncaster Rovers v Preston North End
Rotherham United v Reading

DIVISION FOUR

Southend v Colchester United

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team*



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BRISTOL ROVERS

(Blue and White)

1. Jon Hallworth
2. Geraint Williams
3. Brian Williams
4. Phil Bater
5. Tim Parkin
6. Aiden McCaffery
7. Ian Holloway
8. David Williams
9. Steve White
10. Paul Randall
11. Mark O'Connor
12. Archie Stephens

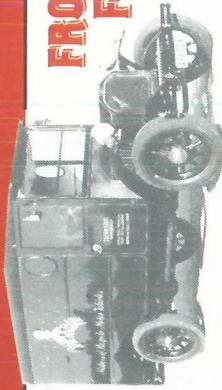
OFFICIALS

REFEREE:
Mr. Denis HEDGES
(Oxford)

LINESMEN:
Red Flag - Mr. T. M. Hobbs
(Stourbridge)

Yellow Flag - Mr. D. A. James
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10. Tony Caldwell
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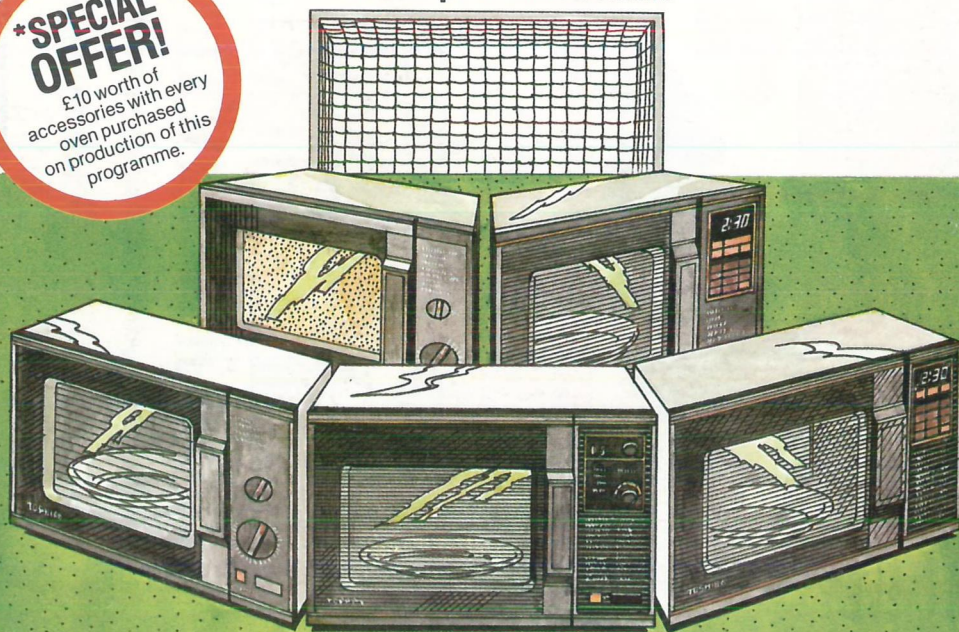
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